

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Public Safety Training Center

5370 Public Safety Place

Frederick, MD 21704

MINUTES of March 28, 2017 Meeting

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Kavonte' Duckett, Lisa Clark, David Kaye, Francisco Alves, Adam Book, Annette Breiling, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lee Whisner, Felicia Turner and Roger Sobkowiak.

Liaison member Jet Reid was present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Chief Ed Hargis, Capt. Patrick Grossman, Angela Spencer, Alicia Barmon, Jane Weir, Christine Isleib, Laine Rover, and Khalil Elshazly.

IV. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. The February 2017 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. With one correction to section 2 that removed one name from the list of attendees, the minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Jane Weir introduced Alicia Barmon, founder of Safe Haven Frederick, and Laine Rover and Khalil Elshazly who are members of that group. They explained that Safe Haven Frederick is an organization that encourages safe havens for everyone, and believes in inalienable human rights and in safe and inclusive communities. Christine Isleib, who recently applied for appointment to the HRC, is a member of Safe Haven Frederick,

It was noted that Safe Haven Frederick has sponsored a number of recent events and activities, including the Muslim support march and rally after the travel ban was imposed. This event drew between 600-800 participants. An immigrant rights rally drew 200-300 people. Representatives have met with elected officials at the City to discuss enacting a human rights resolution, and are closely following the progress of the immigration Trust Act in the state legislature.

Angela Spencer stated that she was glad to be back and encouraged HRC members to continue their work in the community.

It was reported that FPD had sent the annual minority hiring report, and that HRC members were encouraged to review it and submit questions about it before the April HRC meeting. Lt. Tokarz will attend that meeting to discuss the report.

VII. Action Item: A motion was made to adopt a new HRC mission statement. After discussion, members present voted to approve the following language: "To promote equal opportunity, human justice and multiculturalism in Frederick County." The vote to approve was 9 in favor and 2 opposed.

VIII. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$3,786.84 in funds on hand.

IX. Officers' Reports: Mari Lee reminded everyone of the need for regular committee meetings. The CRC did not meet this month. The GRC plans to meet later this week, and the IRC met earlier this month.

Lisa Clark made a report on behalf of the Special Committee. She encouraged members to buy tickets for the upcoming awards dinner, and to continue to sell ads.

X. Liaison reports: Jet Reid presented a very informative summary about suspensions in County schools.

XI. Old business: On the issue of sanctuary jurisdictions, the Executive Committee recommended no action be taken by the HRC, and that members instead make their own choices individually. Considerable discussion ensued. Roger Sobkowiak moved, and Kavonte' Duckett seconded, that the HRC look for ways to promote further discussion about whether the County and City should become sanctuary jurisdictions. It was pointed out that the legislature is currently considering a bill that would make the entire state an immigration sanctuary, and that members of the Frederick Board of Aldermen have been asked to make the City one. Mari Lee stated that this matter should be tabled for the time being, and that members interested in moving something forward should contact the IRC for further discussion and consideration.

Mari Lee announced that Adam Book had been appointed as the new GRC chair.

XII. Director's Report: Miles Ward complemented the HRC on its great attendance and encouraged members to continue selling tickets and ads for the awards dinner. He provided brief updates on a number of bills concerning human rights topics that were presently being considered by the state legislature.

XIII. New business: Lisa Clark discussed work assignments for HRC members at the upcoming awards dinner.

HRC members were encouraged to attend upcoming proclamations for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The City's proclamation will be on April 6, and the County's on April 4.

XIV. Those attending who chose to do so made brief final comments.

XV. The meeting was adjourned.